



The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Idaho



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements activities in five key program areas. These key points are designed to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to Idaho include (\$ in thousands):

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				TOTAL
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & PrivateLand Fire Assist..	
38,718	3,249	36,699	5,617	2,400	2,184	307	286	3,802	94,362

* Includes \$1,100,000 Research and Development activities in Idaho in support of the National Fire Plan.

Firefighting Resources

Staffing the most efficient organizational level (MEL) to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.

- Preparedness Organization
 - \$38,718,000 is allocated to build the most efficient level of fire preparedness organization.
 - 530 positions (permanent and temporary) planned for hire in FY 2001 to meet MEL.
 - As of July 10, 299 permanent employees have been hired to meet MEL (139 in R1 and 160 in R4), and 411 temporary employees have been hired to meet MEL (180 in R1 and 231 in R4).
 - Equipment available for firefighting this year:
 - 75 engines, 15 helicopters, 25 lookouts, 5 chase trucks, 1 water tender.
 - Personnel available for firefighting this year:
 - 799 firefighters (initial attack only) and 18 prevention personnel.
- Fire Facilities
 - Contract for the Lucky Peak Helibase awarded in Ada County, totaling \$1,616,077.
 - Contracts for Price Valley Helibase, helibase lease, building moving project and box culvert awarded in Adams County, totaling \$1,371,134.
 - Contract for rental of Type IV and VI Engines awarded in Camas, Elmore, Custer and Twin Falls Counties totaling \$581,000.
 - Contract for Brownlee Guard Station awarded in Washington County, totaling \$149,000.
 - Contract for 20 fire warehouses to be placed in multiple counties in ID, MT and ND, totaling \$990,000.

Rehabilitation and Restoration

Assuring long-term efforts to improve lands unlikely to recover naturally from fire damage on NFS lands.

- 847,500 acres of National Forest System lands burned in the 2000 fire season.
- \$28,719,000 of the \$142,000,000 national total was allocated to Idaho, with an additional \$16,000,000 available for combined projects within the Northern and Intermountain Regions.
- 137 rehabilitation projects were selected for FY 2001 implementation, including: water systems replacement; reforestation; road, watershed, fish, TES and wildlife habitat restoration; administrative facilities; trail restoration; developed recreation facilities; forest products; boundary reestablishment and landownership administration; invasive plant treatment; grazing management; insect suppression; and abandoned mine and heritage site restoration.
- An estimated 952 jobs will be generated through the Rehabilitation work, with an estimated income of \$12MM that will contribute toward local economies. 827 of these jobs are in the private sector.
- Four (4) contracts on the Salmon-Challis National Forest for herbicide application have been issued.
- 8 contracts for weed spraying awarded in Lemhi and Custer County, totaling \$542,000.
- Contract for Thunder Mountain culverts awarded in Valley County, totaling \$59,000.
- Contract for Idaho City Tree Planning awarded in Elmore, County, totaling \$157,000.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.

- More than 14,200 acres of accomplished hazardous fuels treatments have been entered in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- Total acres treated in FY 2001 may be limited by shorter prescribed fire burning windows.
- The Idaho National Fire Plan Working Group is updating the interface community list. This list will guide decisions on prioritizing federal fuels treatment projects, assist agencies in identifying opportunities to work cooperatively, and aid Congress in responding to constituent inquiries.
- Contract for tree pruning awarded in Clearwater, Idaho, and Latah Counties, totaling \$41,000.
- 2 contracts for land survey awarded in Idaho County, totaling \$91,000.

Community Assistance

Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities on private, state and tribal lands through federal:non-federal cost-shares. The Community Assistance programs in the NFP include:

- **State Fire Assistance** - Approximately \$2,184,000 is granted to the State to increase the readiness level of state and local firefighting organizations, by providing technical training, funding and equipment, and delivery of Firewise workshops. Of the total funding, \$1,983,000 is dedicated to **Hazardous Fuel Reduction** projects and development of defensible space in high-risk areas in and around communities, evaluated and prioritized through a collaborative process with the State. The Idaho Department of Lands, in partnership with the USDA/FS State and Private Forestry group, and via the Western Governor's competitive grant process selected the following projects statewide for hazardous fuels reduction on private or state lands adjacent to public lands in the urban interface:
 - Hope Face - Sandpoint Idaho
 - Heyburn State Park - south end of Lake Coeur d' Alene
 - Dixie Idaho
 - Yellowpine Idaho

- Wilderness Ranch Subdivision - near Idaho City
- In addition, a Fire Fair was held on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest in Sandpoint focused on hazardous fuel reduction on private, state and federal lands, reducing fire risk and creating defensible space for landowners.
- The Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service have begun a statewide hazard and risk assessment. Two outcomes of the assessment will be:
 - To Relative risk by watersheds. In other words watersheds with high, medium and low risk for loss to catastrophic fire. It will help us focus our efforts and use of limited resources.
 - A lead agency will be assigned for each watershed to work with communities. Fire protection responsibility will be a key factor in determination of which agency will lead the planning efforts.
- **Volunteer Fire Assistance** - Approximately \$307,000 is granted to the State to prepare rural (local and volunteer) fire departments, which protect communities with populations of less than 10,000, to improve their readiness for and response to wildfires- especially in the wildland-urban interface. Provides funding and technical assistance directly to these fire departments for training and equipment to enhance protection capabilities across all land ownerships.
- Forest Health Management - A total of \$2,400,000 supports forest health management activities, including support to Forest Service Field Offices and State Foresters in a coordinated effort to detect, monitor, evaluate, prevent and suppress invasive species on federal and nonfederal forestlands between all federal agencies, states, and tribal governments impacted by fire. State Forestry Agencies also receive funding to assist private landowners. The funds also provide for **Noxious Weed Treatment** in support of grants to local weed districts and cooperatives through the State Department of Agriculture to treat noxious weeds on private, state and tribal lands impacted by fire.
 - A weed grant for \$1.4 million was awarded to the Idaho Department of Agriculture.
- **Economic Action Program** - Approximately \$286,000 supports Forest Service technical assistance and grants to state, federal, county, local, tribal governments and not-for-profit organizations, to help communities develop opportunities and enterprises to diversify uses of forest resources and hazardous fuel byproducts, and increase state utilization and marketing capabilities.
- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance - Includes:
 - Fence and Infrastructure Reconstruction -All Priority One (1) fence projects, totaling 78, in the amount of \$938,000, have been funded in Idaho. Priority 1 is for fence losses, which affect ranching operations and can include holding pens, boundary and interior fences, and non-commercial stock holding fences. Funding is also available to cover Priority 2 requests totaling \$61,000, which include fences lost on Tribal, State or local government lands.
 - Hazardous Fuels Cost-Share Incentives - Approximately \$500,000 supports grants to State Forester to reduce and remove hazardous fuels in areas impacted by fire. Regions will work with the States to identify needs and priorities on state, private and tribal lands.
 - Multi-resource Stewardship - Approximately \$705,000 supports grants to State Forester to assist landowners to prepare or revise multi-resource management plans on state, private and tribal lands impacted by fire. Targets impacted communities and local workers/businesses.
 - Economic Action Pilot Projects - Approximately \$845,000 supports grants to state, federal, county, local, tribal governments and not-for-profit organizations, to assist fire-impacted communities to expand and develop markets for wood products resulting from hazardous fuel removal and underutilized small diameter material. Demo projects showing end-use such as timber bridges, round timber construction, and biomass-to-energy projects will be emphasized.
 - Community Fire Planning - Approximately \$420,000 support grants awarded directly to communities and a variety of other partners including state, county, and tribal governments,

and not-for-profits, to develop and revise Community strategic, action and fire risk management plans targeting those most impacted by fires. Funds increase community resiliency and capacity and encourage strategic growth. Local Forest Service offices are helping to identify communities. Activities to date include county level activities such as:

- Kootenai County has hired a consultant to complete a countywide fire/fuels hazard mitigation plan.
- Shoshone County Commissioners, with Commissioner John Cantamessa in the lead, are leading an effort of Fire Chiefs, Forest Service, State of Idaho and Bureau of Land management in development of a hazard mitigation plan.
- The Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce, the Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Lands sponsored a community leaders forum on reduction of fire risk in the county.

The Idaho Department of Lands has established the **Idaho National Fire Plan Working Group**. Its primary purpose is to deliver National Fire Plan programs through coordination with a number of local agency partners and federal partners such as the Forest Service and Department of the Interior agencies.

The National Interagency Fire Center in Boise hosted a meeting in March with state and federal agency employment and business partners on employment and contracting opportunities available through the National Fire Plan.

Note: Collection of accomplishment data continues on an ongoing basis.

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